

nominees to the D.C. Circuit, without even considering their qualifications. Then, instead of confirming the consensus judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar prior to the end of the congressional session, Republicans forced the President to renominate each nominee and for the Senate Judiciary Committee to report them again this year.

In 2014, Senate Republicans have proceeded to filibuster each and every judicial nominee. The Senate has taken 62 cloture votes on judicial nominations so far this year, amounting to well over 400 wasted hours that the Senate should have been spending considering legislation to help the American people. Never before has the Senate seen the systematic filibuster of every judicial nominee or such unfair treatment of qualified, consensus nominees.

The Senate should act quickly to confirm the judicial nominees pending on the Senate floor. Because Republican obstruction will prevent us from finishing our work before the elections, we must return to session as soon as possible after the elections in November to complete our important work. The American people deserve courts capable of providing access to swift justice, not empty courtrooms and delays.

#### TRIBUTE TO JEANNE TESSIERI AND DEBBIE HALVERSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize two long-serving members of the Senate Sergeant at Arms Office, Jeanne Tessieri and Debbie Halverson, who are retiring in October of this year.

Since 1980, Jeanne has served as the Sergeant at Arms' State Office Liaison. She runs a small—but highly effective—office that impacts every Senator in this body. As Senators, we are privileged to represent the constituents of our home States, and it is imperative that the individuals we represent have a place to bring their thoughts and concerns. Under the law, each Senator is authorized to maintain office space in our respective States, but it is subject to strict regulations. Jeanne, in her role as the State Office Liaison, became a vital resource for all Senators. She worked to ensure that every State—big or small—had constituent service space that not only fulfilled the needs of the public, but also adhered to regulation.

Jeanne has guided us in selecting and arranging for the lease agreements for each one of our State offices, and there are currently more than 450 such offices throughout the 50 States. She literally wrote the book detailing the ins and outs of obtaining and maintaining a State office that meets the strict requirements for office spaces and expenses for furnishings.

We are grateful for Jeanne's steady, confident assistance through the years. Should a problem arise, Jeanne has al-

ways been the first person to call and offer assistance to our State offices. She knows how to marshal resources to help the offices address any issue that comes up.

Debbie Halverson has been Jeanne's very capable assistant for the past 31 years. Many of us that know her also knew her father, Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson. Her departure in October will mark the end of a wonderful era of service to the Senate for the Halverson family. I commend Debbie's years of dedication to her work and this body.

I appreciate the combined 65 years of faithful service Jeanne and Debbie provided the United States Senate. I wish them the best in their future endeavors and congratulate them both on their well-deserved retirements.

#### CONGRATULATING MAYOR ROBERT A. CASHELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and thank my friend, Mayor Robert A. Cashell, Sr., of Reno, for his more than three decades of public service in Nevada. After serving as the mayor of Reno for 12 years, Mayor Cashell will be retiring on November 12, 2014. I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Reno and to the State of Nevada.

Over the past 35 years, Mayor Cashell has worked at nearly every level of State and local government. Beginning with his election to the University of Nevada Board of Regents in 1979, Bob proved himself to be a strong leader with a keen ability to listen and understand the needs of those he served. Renoites and Nevadans quickly came to rely on Bob's leadership and ultimately elected him as Lieutenant Governor of the State. A skilled businessman, Bob understood the need for a coordinated State effort to spur economic development. As Lieutenant Governor, Bob Cashell helped create the Nevada Commission on Economic Development and the Commission on Tourism. He later went on to chair both of these vitally important State commissions.

First elected as Mayor of Reno in 2002, Mayor Cashell was subsequently re-elected in 2006 and 2010. During his tenure, Mayor Cashell once again displayed his business acumen, helping transform Reno into a hub of innovation, spurring investment from some of America's most prestigious corporations. Mayor Cashell also spearheaded the continued revitalization of downtown Reno, making it a destination for special events, and creating a pedestrian and family-friendly atmosphere.

As mayor, Bob Cashell met some of Reno's most difficult social issues head on. He refused to shy away from the issue of poverty, instead developing programs to help those hardest hit by the Great Recession. Mayor Cashell was the driving force behind the creation of the Community Assistance Center, which houses multiple services, including free food and social services, for the city's homeless and needy.

In every role he has assumed, Mayor Cashell has made Nevada a better place to live. His work as mayor of the City of Reno will be dearly missed, but I have no doubt that Mayor Cashell will find some way to continue serving the people of Nevada. Although he is retiring from office, Mayor Cashell will never retire from helping others.

I wish Bob and his wife Nancy Parker Cashell all the best as they begin this new chapter of their lives. I thank Nancy, their 4 children and 9 grandchildren for sharing Bob with Nevada. Our State is a better place because of Mayor Bob Cashell's many years of exemplary service.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAYOR NAN GORMAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exemplary public servant from my home State of Kentucky. Nan Gorman who is currently serving as the mayor of the City of Hazard will retire this year upon completing her term of office.

Mayor Gorman was born in Memphis, TN, but moved to Hazard shortly after. She grew up in hard times, with the Nation reeling from the effects of a worldwide depression. Though the odds may have been stacked against her, she graduated from the University of Cincinnati and the Parson School of Design in New York and subsequently traveled the world on a tour of self-education.

Nan experienced so much of the world in her travels, but she saw nothing that would prevent her from returning to her "Old Kentucky Home." Back in Hazard, she married her high-school sweetheart, Bill, who was elected mayor of Hazard in 1978 and served in that capacity until his death 35 years later.

Bill Gorman was a beloved member of the Hazard community. When he died in October of 2010, however, Nan was appointed to serve as interim mayor and the town did not skip a beat. Nan performed so well in her interim role that she was voted into office by a 3-1 margin in the next election.

Although Mayor Gorman will step down at the end of her term, her love for the City of Hazard has not decreased in the slightest degree, and she is planning on running for one of the city's four commissioner seats.

Nan Gorman's dedication to public service and her community set a shining example for us all, and I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing her illustrious career.

Mr. President, though I admittedly possess a strong bias towards the author, who happens to be my wife, Secretary Elaine Chao, Politico published what I found to be an exceptional article on Mayor Gorman last year. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Politico, Nov. 17, 2013]

# EMBRACING HER OLD KENTUCKY HOME

(By Elaine Chao)

Deep in the heart of Kentucky's rugged Eastern Mountain region there lives a woman who has fascinated and inspired me for two decades. She is known locally these days as "Mayor Nan"—the octogenarian chief executive of Hazard and advocate for its 5,467 residents.

Nan Gorman was born in Memphis, Tenn., on St. Patrick's Day. She moved to Hazard in 1929 when her father, James Hagan, a recent medical school graduate and aspiring surgeon, went to work there. The stock market was about to crash and soon the Great Depression would be under way and take a brutal toll on the rural mountain economy. In the early days, her father was often paid for his services with chickens and eggs. Later, her father became chief surgeon for the region at the Hazard Hospital.

Hazard was not just small but remote because of the lack of roads in the region so the Hagan family, with little Nan in tow, traveled there from Tennessee via Virginia mountain passes. Nan's parents, who she says still inspire and guide her today, ensured that she had a good education and gave her the opportunity to attend college but, as was prevalent then, expected that she would soon settle down as a young woman, marry and have children.

She eventually did all that, but not until after she had experienced some of the world far from Hazard and her beloved eastern Kentucky mountains that she says "are like the arms of a mother around us." So enraptured was she with the natural beauty around Hazard that she became an artist to record scenes in pencil, ink, watercolors and oil paints.

After World War II, Nan graduated from the University of Cincinnati and attended the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City. With an adventurous spirit, Nan flew to Egypt by herself to study ancient history and then traveled on for solo explorations of Greece, Rome, Paris and London. Having been exposed to such exotic, vibrant cities so full of opportunity, one could hardly have begrudged a choice to make her life elsewhere. But instead, she chose to come home to Kentucky. She got an apartment in Lexington and worked as a freelance artist drawing advertisements for clothing stores, doing architectural renderings and sketching historical landmarks. One day she saw a classified advertisement in which the state was looking for a full-time artist, and she subsequently became the first one ever employed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Among her tasks was designing the state seal—United We Stand, Divided We Fall—which is still in use today.

At age 50, Nan settled again in Hazard, remarried—to her high school sweetheart, Bill, and together they formed a partnership that would have a lasting impact on virtually every sphere of the community. Bill was elected mayor in 1978, served for 35 years and never accepted a salary. When he returned home to the Lord three years ago, Nan asked that donations go to a fund to benefit local public schools. Wishing to continue Bill's legacy of service to the community, Nan was subsequently elected mayor as a write-in candidate, winning by a 3-to-1 margin.

Nan's governing personal ethic is to constantly strive to do better for Hazard's residents for as long as she can. When last I spoke with her, Nan was alternately expressing pride over a young local girl's success overcoming disadvantages, helping with the Appalachian Regional Hospital's fundraising campaign and her efforts to obtain refrigerators for families in need.

An octogenarian well-deserving of retirement, Mayor Nan instead toils from sunrise to late in the evening on behalf of her town. She takes pleasure in the people and the mountain scenery and loves nothing more than to watch wildlife in her yard or to hear that some good fortune is improving someone's life. My takeaway from every visit with Nan is appreciation for the big difference that one woman in a little town can make.

## RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a venerable institution of higher learning from my home State of Kentucky the University of Pikeville. UPike, as it is more commonly known, is celebrating 125 years of educating young minds on its campus in eastern Kentucky.

September 16 marked 125 years since the first classes were held at what was then called Pikeville Collegiate Institute. The college was founded by a group of Presbyterians, and has maintained its religious foundation ever since.

In addition to its religious background, UPike has also always maintained a strong commitment to its community. The university invests deeply in the Appalachian region through community service projects, humanitarian efforts, and its educational offerings. As former President Hal Smith remarked at the anniversary ceremony, UPike's mission has always been "to provide educational opportunity for the youth and adults of this region."

Three other former presidents, as well as the current President Dr. James Hurley, were in attendance Tuesday for the ceremony. During the ceremony, Dr. Hurley announced a campaign to raise \$75 million for the university. It is a fitting endeavor to ensure many more years of excellence in education at the University of Pikeville.

I now ask that my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to the University of Pikeville's 125 years of excellence in education.

WYMT Mountain News recently published an article detailing the University of Pikeville's 125th anniversary ceremonies. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE KICKS OFF 125TH ANNIVERSARY BY HONORING FOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS

(By Hillary Thornton)

PIKEVILLE, KY. (WYMT).—Four former University of Pikeville presidents were on hand for a ceremony that was all about honoring their past and celebrating their future. As Tuesday marks 125 years since the first class was held at the Pikeville Collegiate Institute . . . now known as UPike.

Opening convocation officially starts the school year, however this year also marks the 125th anniversary.

Through all those years, the many additions and changes . . . all agree the mission of the institution remains the same.

Former President Hal Smith (1997–2009) says, "To provide educational opportunity for the youth and adults of this region."

President James Hurley calls it a very surreal day, as he honors four past presidents with honorary degrees from the institution they say continues to break barriers and exceed expectations.

Smith says, "Each of us laid a little bit of a foundation for the things that are happening and clearly I think the future is very, very bright."

To help ensure another 125 years of success at UPike, Dr. Hurley announced a \$75 million comprehensive capital campaign.

"Investing in the future of Central Appalachia . . . with the decline in the coal industry we have to think about a new economy, an economy based on education," explains Hurley. He adds, "That is going to be our focus . . . we are going to raise 75 million dollars to invest in new infrastructure."

KYCOM student Fritz Stine says, "I think this definitely shows that we are moving in this trajectory and we are spearheading the future of the area."

"Working to honor their past, while planning for and celebrating their future."

## COMPETITIVE PAY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, of the 21 million veterans in our country, about 750,000 live in Illinois. I hear from many of them as I travel around the State meeting with different groups. Like veterans throughout the United States, Illinois veterans are concerned about their health care. They are frustrated by lengthy wait times to get an appointment and, like all of us, they are furious about the wait list scandal uncovered this year. One factor that has contributed to the long wait times is a shortage of medical personnel at VA hospitals and clinics. In many cases there are not enough doctors and nurses to meet demand. Many of the doctors and nurses we do have are overwhelmed.

One way we can address this is to give VA doctors and nurses a raise. I am happy that VA Secretary Bob McDonald announced this morning the agency is going to lift a salary freeze on medical personnel and plans to increase compensation for the health care providers who work with our veterans. This is a positive step in improving the ailing Veterans Health Administration.

Salaries for VA doctors and nurses often are lower on average than those of their private sector counterparts, and those salaries have been frozen for 3 years. Primary care doctors and internists at VA facilities earned about 33 percent less than private sector primary care physicians in 2012, according to the Medical Group Management Association. A similar disparity can be found in nurses' pay.

Last week Secretary McDonald testified at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing that the VA needs about 28,000 new medical staffers—doctors, nurses, other care providers, and